Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 RIYADH 00397 271237Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 HA-05 PER-01 OPR-02 /046 W
----------006257 271244Z /50
P R 271025Z MAY 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 494

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIYADH 397

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, SA
SUBJECT: NEW SAUDI DECREE AGAINST WOMEN WORKING

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF DECREE NO. 10386 DATED MAY 9, 1978 ISSUED BY SAUDI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO VARIOUS SAG OFFICIALS. IT IS MARKED EXTREMELY SECRET AND URGENT AND REITERATES ILLEGALITY OF EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN KINGDOM. (DECREE WAS ACTUALLY CIRCULATED ON MAY 22, 1978).

2. BEGIN TEXT: KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, EXTREMELY SECRET AND URGENT, NO. 10386 DATED 2/6/98 HEGIRA, TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS:

WE HAVE NOTICED RECENTLY THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PRIVATE COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS AND SOME MINISTRIES ARE INTENT IN EMPLOYING WOMEN IN ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL POSITIONS AND IN OTHER POSITIONS WHICH ARE NOT BEFITTING OR APPROPRIATE TO THEIR FEMININITY AND WHERE THEY COMINGLE WITH MEN IN THEIR PLACES OF WORK - THIS BEING CONTRARY TO OUR HANIF RELIGION AND OUR LOFTY CUSTOMS.

FOR THAT REASONS WE WISH YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PREPARE A PLEA TO BRING A DEFINITE END TO THIS WRONG SITUATION BASED ON THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 RIYADH 00397 271237Z

FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

(1) TO CHARGE LABOR OFFICES IN ALL REGIONS TO CONDUCT INSPECTIONS IMMEDIATELY OF ALL PRIVATE COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS. THOSE COMPANIES IN WHICH A WOMAN IS WORKING SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED AS TO HOW THEY RECRUITED HER AND WHETHER SHE HAS A WORK PERMIT. FOLLOWING THAT INVESTIGATION SHE WILL BE DEPORTED FROM THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

COUNTRY. THE LAW WILL ALSO BE APPLIED AGAINST THE ONE WHO EMPLOYED HER AND, IF HER LEGAL GUARDIAN IS FOUND, HE MUST PLEDGE THAT SHE WILL NOT RETURN TO THE COUNTRY. IF SHE DOES, BOTH WILL BE DEPORTED.

AS FOR SAUDI WOMEN, THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WORK AND THE LAW WILL BE APPLIED TO THE ONE WHO HIRED HER WITHOUT A WORK PERMIT. A PLEDGE WILL BE TAKEN FROM HER GUARDIAN NOT TO PERMIT HER TO WORK EXCEPT IN SOME PERMITTED AREAS SUCH AS IN HOSPITALS, IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR TEACHING WOMEN, AND IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED SECTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT SUCH AS WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

(2) THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT MUST COORDINATE WITH THE PASSPORT OFFICE ON DEPORTATION MEASURES TO BE TAKEN. THE LAWS WILL BE APPLIED TO THE MAXIMUM DEGREE PERMITTED.

(3) TO TAKE A PLEDGE FROM THE TRUE OWNERS OF THE PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND COMPANIES NOT TO EMPLOY ANY WOMEN IN THEIR ACTIVITIES. THESE TRUE OWNERS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT - NOT THE OFFICE DIRECTORS.

WITH REGARD TO THE MINISTRIES, WE HAVE INFORMED THE PRINCES AND MINISTERS VIA A COPY OF OUR LETTER TO TERMINATE WOMEN WHO ARE WORKING IN ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL POSITIONS EXCEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 RIYADH 00397 271237Z

IN THOSE PLACES WHERE WOMEN ARE PERMITTED TO WORK.

WE INFORMED THE OFFICES OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE MINISTRIES BY A COPY OF OUR LETTER TO BE USED AS REFERENCE. THOSE WHO LEARN OF EMPLOYMENT OF A WOMAN WHO ARRIVED IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY SHOULD REPORT TO US BY PRIVATE LETTER IN ORDER THAT THE MINISTRY (OF INTERIOR) CAN TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION AGAINST THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT HER IN.
SIGNED HRH PRINCE NAIF BIN ABD AL AZIZ

3. COPIES SENT TO
(1) THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCES AND MINISTERS
(2) THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE PRINCES OF OTHER AREAS
(3) HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU - TO PURSUE EXECUTION OF ORDER CONCERNING FOREIGN WOMEN WORKING IN MINISTRIES
(4) DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SURETE GENERALE (MUBA'ITH) TO EXECUTE ORDER AGAINST SAUDI WOMEN WORKING IN MINISTRIES
(5) DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PASSPORTS AND CIVIL AFFAIRS TO EXECUTE ORDER REGARDING WOMEN WHO WORK IN PRIVATE COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS.
(6) REFERENCE COPY TO BRIG. GENERAL SALEH KHUSARYFAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL (MUBA'ITH)

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

(7) DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENTS IN MINISTRIES.

4. COMMENT BY SEPTEL.
GNEHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, EMPLOYMENT, WOMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RIYADH00397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-1089
Format: TEL
From: RIYADH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaaivr.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d6e3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2537128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SAUDI DECREE AGAINST WOMEN WORKING
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, SA
To: JIDDA DHAHRAN
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d6e3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014